

Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance Module 1 – Land-based Wind Energy Version 2



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Migratory Bird Management

April 2013



Eagle Conservation
 Plan Guidance,
 Module 1 – Land-based
 Wind Energy Version-2

Released April 2013

Changes in the Regulations

Final "Duration Rule" - Published December 9, 2013

- extends the maximum term for programmatic permits from 5 to 30 years
- allows programmatic permits to be transferable to new project owners
- increased permit fees
 - × \$36,000 for processing programmatic permit application
 - × \$2,600 administration fee for each 5-year review



Additional Rule Changes?

 There may be additional changes to the Permit Rule
 April 2012, the Service issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing to revise Eagle Act permit regulations (50 CFR 22.26 and 22.27)

 stakeholders and the public identified issues that may be improved by regulatory revisions

Additional Rule Changes?

FWS solicited public comments about the permit program concerning

- How the Eagle Act's language regarding preservation of eagles should be interpreted and applied;
- The level of impacts that trigger compensatory mitigation;
- Issuance criteria for programmatic permits; and
- Possible mechanisms for streamlining permits

Additional Rule Changes?

We will solicit additional public input on changes to the 2009 permit regulations



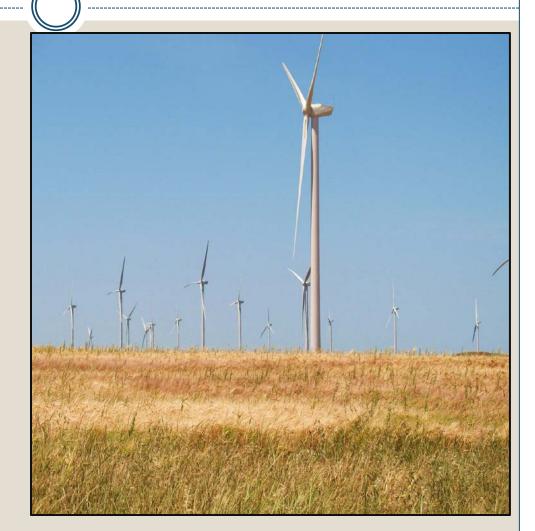
- additional NEPA analysis will be conducted
- series of public scoping meetings in 2014



Eagle Take permits updates CA & NV

Shiloh IV Wind Project

- Estimated take of 5 eagles over 5 years
- Public comment period closed on Draft EA
- Permit decision expected in spring of 2014



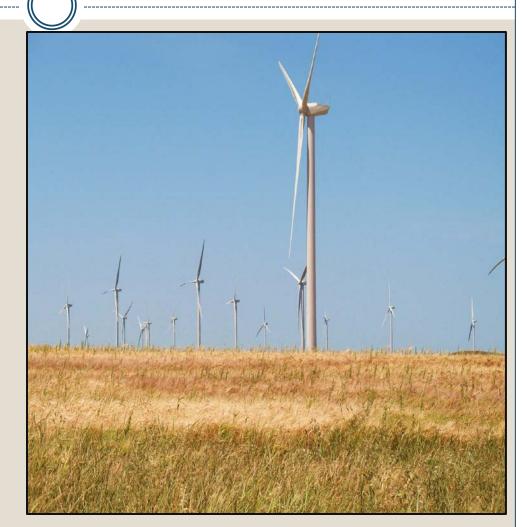
Eagle Take permits updates CA & NV

Alta East Wind Project

- Draft EA under development
- Out for public comment 2014
- 5 year permit

PG&E O&M

Applied for 30 yr permit under new regs



Announcements

 Eagle Biologist Position: GS 9/11, Term, Full-time, Cheyenne WY.

- Will be part of a western-wide eagle team to develop and prioritize conservation strategies, and work on other eaglerelated issues
 - × USA Jobs #: R6-14-1028266-D

Bald and Golden Eagle Workshop

• Hosted by The Wildlife Society's Sacramento-Shasta Chapter

- × Natural History, Legal Protections, Threats, Permitting
- **×** Coming later this year

Introductions

Jessi Brown

- Working under an agreement for USFWS
- Works out of the USFWS Office in Reno, NV

Brian Woodbridge

- USFWS lead for the Western Golden Eagle Conservation Team (more later)
- works out of the USFWS Office in Yreka, CA

Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) Updates

• DRECP - Status

- Large-scale (22.5 million acre) conservation plan to address renewable energy development and permitting in the CA Mohave Desert
- DRECP and Draft EIS expected to be out for public comment in late-spring/early-summer 2014
- Proposes permitting take of golden eagles under both Federal and State laws
- proposal includes designation of conserved areas, development areas, conservation management actions, monitoring and adaptive management

Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan Updates

- Monitoring Golden Eagles under the DRECP
 CEC funding provided to USGS
 - Purpose: determine the objectives for golden eagle surveying and monitoring standardized protocol in the DRECP
 - Multiple state and federal regulatory agencies with differing needs & regulations
 - Tw0-day meeting held in November 2013
 - Monitoring plan not in time for public draft DRECP